

### **REMARKS**

Claims 2-4, 6, 12-14, 16-20, 23-27, 29, and 30 are pending in the present application. Claims 5, 7, and 15 are hereby canceled. Claims 2, 6, 12, 16, and 17 have been amended. Claims 2, 12, and 17 are independent claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

#### ***Claim Objections***

The Examiner objects to claims 2, 12, and 17, asserting that “the distance” in the last part of each claim should be changed to --a distance--. Applicant has amended claims 2, 12, and 17 accordingly. As such, this objection should be withdrawn.

#### ***Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 2-7, 12-20, 23-27, 29, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,850,470 to Kung et al. (hereafter “Kung”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,823,080 to Iijima et al. (hereafter “Iijima”). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5, 7, and 15 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims has been rendered moot. Furthermore, the subject matter of claims 5 and 7 has been incorporated into claim 2 by amendment. Similar subject matter has also been incorporated into claims 12 and 17 by amendment.

In view of the above amendments, independent claims 2, 12, and 17 each recite compositing a plurality of desired aimed objects (e.g., parts of the face) to form a composite image. Accordingly, the images of the plurality of desired objects (e.g., images of parts of the face) are combined into the composite image (e.g., an image of a human face). Kung and Iijima, taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest such features.

As described in the abstract of Kung, Kung merely teaches a technique for recognizing the identity of a deformable object, e.g., a human face. As such, Kung's technique does *not* create a composite image. Specifically, Kung's invention first detects the presence of eyes, nose, and/or eyebrows in the input image. Then, the facial feature extractor 22 extracts a subimage corresponding to the facial region of the input image. The extracted subimage is then processed in order to recognize the identity of the face in the input image.

In the rejection, the Examiner cites col. 4, lines 55-65, of Kung to teach compositing an image (see Office Action at page 6, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph). However, the cited section of Kung refers to the facial feature extractor, which merely clips part of the input image, rather than compositing a plurality of images of facial parts.

Thus, Kung fails to teach or suggest compositing a plurality of desired objects to form a composite image, as claimed. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Iijima does not teach or suggest forming a composite image, nor does the Examiner assert that Iijima teaches or suggests forming a composite image. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Kung and Iijima, taken separately or in combination, fail to teach or suggest every claimed feature.

At least for the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 2, 12, and 17 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 6, 13, 14, 16, 18-20, 23-27, 29, and 30 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

***Conclusion***

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance in the present application.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

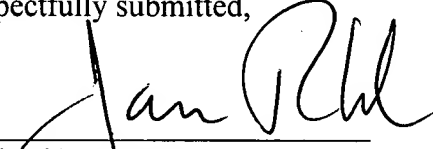
Application No. 09/586,601  
Amendment dated July 16, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of February 16, 2007

Docket No.: 3562-0103P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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